

Message Text

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67

ACTION SS-20

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 SSO-00 CCO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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Z R 272125Z MAY 74

FM USINT DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 679

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 0943

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), SY

SUBJECT: TEXT OF SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE STATEMENT

PASS WHITE HOUSE GENERAL SCOWCROFT AND ZIEGLER

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE STATEMENT AT
DAMASCUS AIRPORT MAY 27:

2. QUOTE. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: PRESIDENT ASAD AND I
SPENT MOST OF LAST NIGHT AND ALL OF TODAY ON A VERY
COMPLETE AND PAINSTAKING REVIEW OF ALL THE ASPECTS OF
A POSSIBLE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND
SYRIA. WE HAVE NARROWED THE DIFFERENCES TO A VERY FEW
AND I AM NOW RETURNING TO ISRAEL TO MEET WITH THE
ISRAELI NEGOTIATING TEAM TONIGHT TO SEE WHAT THEIR
VIEW IS ABOUT HOW THESE DIFFERENCES MIGHT BE BRIDGED.
TOMORROW MR. SISCO OF MY GROUP IS GOING TO RETURN TO
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DAMASCUS TO BRING THESE CONSIDERATIONS TO PRESIDENT

ASAD AND TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER.

3. SINCE THIS IS MY LAST VISIT TO DAMASCUS ON THIS TRIP, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A FEW OBSERVATIONS AND I KNOW I SPEAK ALSO FOR MY SYRIAN COLLEAGUES. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SYRIAN AND AMERICAN PEOPLES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN GOOD. AS A RESULT OF THE VERY INTENSIVE, VERY CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE LAST FOUR WEEKS, THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF SYRIA AND THE U.S. HAVE GREATLY IMPROVED AND A MUTUAL COMPREHENSION OF EACH OTHERS PROBLEMS HAVE GROWN. WE HAVE MADE A DECISION TO CONTINUE TOWARDS AN IMPROVEMENT OF OUR RELATIONS ON A VERY BROAD FRONT. WE CONSIDER THIS ONE OF THE VERY POSITIVE OUTCOMES OF MY VISIT TO THE MIDDLE EAST. ON BEHALF OF MY COLLEAGUES I WOULD LIKE TO THANK PRESIDENT ASAD, THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE PEOPLE OF SYRIA FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY HOSPITALITY WITH WHICH WE HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AND I WANT TO ASSURE THEM THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO PERSEVERE IN OUR EFFORTS TO PRODUCE AGREEMENT ON DISENGAGEMENT AND TO BRING PEACE TO THE MIDDLE EAST. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. END QUOTE.
SCOTES

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